

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows, this listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 - 15 (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) A thick-film heating device for fluids for mounting in a continuous heating device, comprising:
at least one thick-film heating element including embodied as an electric resistance heater; and at least one heat transmission element which is connected in a heat-conducting manner to the thick-film heating element and the fluid so as to transfer the heat generated by the thick-film heating element to the fluid; and,
~~characterized in that a power control device that initiates is provided for initiating one of a continuous and an [[or]] almost continuous control of the thick-film heating element,~~
~~wherein the power control is carried out by one of a phase-angle and a pulse pause modulation.~~
17. (Canceled)
18. (Previously Presented) The thick-film heating device according to claim 16, wherein the power control device is a thyristor or a triac.
19. (Previously Presented) The thick-film heating device according to claim 16, wherein a cooling device is coupled to the power control device to remove the heat produced during operation of the power control device.

20. (Previously Presented) The thick-film heating device according to claim 16, wherein the cooling device is formed by the heat transmission element and the power control device is arranged on the heat transmission element and is connected thereto in a good heat-conducting manner.
21. (Currently amended) The thick-film heating device according to claim 16, wherein the heat transmission element is made of a material which has a poor thermal conductivity in a [[the]] lateral direction, e.g. stainless steel.
22. (Currently amended) The thick-film heating device according to claim 16, wherein the thick-film heating element has precisely one heating circuit through electrical connection of a corresponding heating section.
23. (Previously Presented) The thick-film heating device according to claim 16, wherein the thick-film heating element is formed from a material having a positive temperature characteristic (PTC).
24. (Previously Presented) The thick-film heating device according to claim 16, wherein there is provided a contacting device disposed on the heat transmission element which is electrically connected to the electrical elements of the thick-film heating device.
25. (Currently amended) A continuous heating device comprising a thick-film heating device according to claim 16 and a moulded part connected positively thereto in a pressure-resistant and thermally stable manner to form a fluid chamber, wherein the moulded part has at least one inlet and at least one outlet.
26. (Currently amended) A household appliance comprising; especially a dishwasher or a washing machine, including

- an item handling means for handling items; and
a thick-film heater for supplying heat relative to the items being handled, the thick-film heater for mounting in a continuous heating device and including at least one thick-film heating element including embodied as an electric resistance heater, ~~and~~ at least one heat transmission element which is connected in a heat-conducting manner to the thick-film heating element and the fluid so as to transfer the heat generated by the thick-film heating element to the fluid, and
~~characterized in that~~ a power control device is ~~provided~~ for initiating one of a continuous and an [[or]] almost continuous control of the thick-film heating element, wherein the power control is carried out by one of a phase-angle and a pulse pause modulation.
27. (Previously Presented) The household appliance according to claim 26 and further comprising a continuous heating device disposed in the household appliance.
28. (Previously Presented) The household appliance according to claim 26 and further comprising a cooling device coupled to the power control device to remove heat produced during operation of the power control device.
29. (Previously Presented) The household appliance according to claim 28, wherein the cooling device is formed by the heat transmission element and the power control device is arranged on the heat transmission element and is connected thereto in a heat-conducting manner.
30. (Currently amended) The household appliance according to claim 29, wherein ~~the power control can be carried out by means of phase angle or pulse pause modulation and the power control device is one of a thyristor and [[or]] a triac.~~

31. (New) The thick-film heating device according to claim 21, wherein the material of the heat transmission element is stainless steel.
32. (New) The household appliance according to claim 26, wherein the household appliance comprises one of a dishwasher or a washing machine.
33. (New) The thick-film heating device according to claim 22, wherein the thick-film heating element includes one of a plurality of heating sections serially connected by corresponding conductor track sections, and a single, spiral heating section.
34. (New) The thick-film heating device according to claim 33, comprising:
a fuse located substantially at a center of the one of the plurality of heating sections and the single, spiral heating section,
wherein connecting ends of the fuse are electrically connected to the conductor track sections.
35. (New) The thick-film heating device according to claim 16, wherein the power control device is arranged directly on the heat transmission element.